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NEWS RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
MAKING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE
IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TRUDY M. DAVIS, 43, of Sacramento, California pled guilty today to three felony offenses related to claims for disaster assistance arising out of Hurricane Katrina before Hon. Garland E. Burrell, United States District Judge.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General and United States Postal Inspection Service.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force-chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division-includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and others.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting this case, DAVIS pled guilty to two counts of making false claims to an agency of the United States (the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to one count of theft of United States property. DAVIS admitted stealing \$4,358 of funds allocated for disaster relief victims. According to court documents, DAVIS has agreed to pay full restitution for her theft of money allocated for Hurricane Katrina victims.

DAVIS is scheduled to appear for sentencing on June 29, 2007 before Judge Burrell. DAVIS faces ten years of imprisonment for theft of United States property and five years of imprisonment for each false claim offense. DAVIS is subject to a \$750,000 fine and a three year term of supervision. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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